

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

**Tuesday, September 14th, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

**China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the meeting of September 14, 2010 to order and welcomed all in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bringle called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Overcash, there was a quorum. The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular meeting of the Town Council on September 14, 2010 with an addition under New Business V) Resolution NCGHSP and remove item III) Utility Merger under Other Business. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to adopt the August 3, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

I) Charles Freeze – 611 Salisbury Street

Mr. Freeze stated that his water bill states that he used 3,000 gallons and feels there is no way he used that much. He stated that he doesn't see how they approved this rate because the water is not fit to drink and he doesn't wash his clothes at home. He stated that they can't prove that he used the 3,000 gallons of water. He also stated that the highway is very dangerous since the new road has been built. He stated that he has come close to being hit several times. He stated that if he ever gets hurt and nothing has been done, he will sue the town.

II) Roy Allen – 311 Chapel Street

Mr. Allen stated that he has been told to remove a portable carport and wants to know what can be done about this.

Mayor Bringle stated that there are permits that have to be acquired to place certain structures on your property and also setbacks that have to be met. He asked Mr. Allen to contact Town Hall to set up an appointment with Mr. Pless to review the situation.

Mr. Pless stated that it is in Code Enforcement at this point.

Mr. Allen stated that it is a carport that he decided to close in.

Mayor Bringle reminded him to be in touch with Mr. Pless to set up an appointment with him and the zoning and planning administrator.

NEW BUSINESS

I) Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution

Mr. Thomason stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is a document that addresses a community's risk to natural and man-made hazards. He reviewed a power point printout that he provided to the Council. He stated that the plan has a scheduled maintenance process where the task force will review the plan to see what changes need to be made so that the plan stays current. He requested that the Council adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution that is required by each governing body. He stated that this is the five year update. He thanked the Town Manager, staff and Council for their help. He asked if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Bringle asked Chief Kluttz and Chief Gledhill if they endorse these changes. Both agreed.

Mr. Upright made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) Fire Department Renovations

Mayor Bringle stated that a committee has met several times to discuss the options for renovations to the current fire and police department. He stated that the Town has received funding from the USDA. He stated that he is excited and feels that all issues have been addressed.

Mr. Pless stated that this process has taken about eighteen months up until this point. He stated that tonight is an introduction to a close example of a finished project and believes Mr. Ashlin has moved fairly quickly. He stated that the roof structure issue will be solved with this renovation.

Mr. Bill Ashlin presented the site plan, floor plan and renovations. He stated that there were some problems with safety and ADA compliance issues. He stated that they have gone through different schemes and components to try to fit the trucks in without an addition but found that it is needed to house the fire trucks. He stated that

Administration would move into the facility and Police would move into the current Administration building. He stated that both phases in total are expected to be in construction for 15-16 months. He stated that the paving will be redone because of the poor condition and the trucks using the drive. He stated that the floor in the current Fire Department will be leveled off and will become Town Hall. He stated that there are two connecting entrances for the front of the building for Fire and Administration and went into more detail for the remaining of the Fire facility. He stated that the fire trucks will have area out front of the building to be pulled out and be serviced without being in Main Street. He stated that the plans were brought before the Planning Board and at the time they requested several changes to the plan that are now reflected. He stated that there are some serious water shed issues for the Police Department and the plans include changes to that existing roof. He stated that an estimate was given about two months ago and the conservative estimate is just over two million dollars for the entire package.

Mayor Bringle stated that new construction estimated around \$5.1 million for new construction and Mr. Pless confirmed.

Mr. Upright asked if the entire parking and drive is asphalt.

Mr. Ashlinn stated that it will be wall to wall asphalt.

Mr. Upright asked them to look at the repair costs and installment costs of concrete versus asphalt. He also asked that if there were any consideration for expansion in the future.

Mayor Bringle stated that the front lobby of Town Hall would allow expansion. He also stated that if the Fire were needed to expand, hopefully that would be the point to build a new fire station elsewhere.

Mr. Withers stated that he would like to see the lobby area smaller and offices already put in where needed.

Mr. Upright stated that he didn't see much in the budget for furnishings.

Mr. Pless stated that there will be furniture used from existing structures but they have been modest with the expenses for furnishings. He stated that it will need to be revisited. He stated that there will be indirect costs with rental as well as remodeling the current Town Hall.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mr. Ashlinn and the committee that has worked on this project.

Mr. Pless stated that the committee will be meeting again and the project looks to go to bid at the beginning of the year. He stated that the project has to be closed by

March 4, 2011 (loan closing) and does not anticipate any trouble with that timeline. He stated that the project has to be completed within five years.

Mayor Bringle asked Mr. Pless to keep the Council posted.

III) Fire Department Wal-Mart Grant

Chief Gledhill stated that they applied for a grant with Wal-Mart and was awarded the grant. His wife, Traci Gledhill stated that nine thousand dollars was presented to the community on August 27, 2010 for computer based learning. Traci presented the \$1000 check to the Fire Department on behalf of Wal-Mart.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mrs. Gledhill and Wal-Mart.

IV) Bicycle Dedication

Chief Gledhill showed the new fire bicycle to the Council. He stated that the bicycle was given to the Town and on behalf of Pansy Safrit by Sybil Safrit of 409 Ketchie Street. The Fire Department wants to dedicate the bike on behalf of Pansy who passed away in October of 2009.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mrs. Safrit and her contribution to the Town of China Grove as well as Pansy's relationship to the Town and her service for the Town.

V) Resolution for NCGSHP

Mr. Pless stated that this resolution will acknowledge that there is commitment needed by the Town for the NCGSHP Grant.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adopt the resolution for the NCGSHP Grant. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) Committee Appointments

Mayor Bringle stated that there have been a number of citizens that have approached the Council concerning current policies. He stated that Mr. Pless has asked the Council to consider forming a committee to review the policies to be sure they are compliant and that there is unity within the Town.

Mayor Bringle stated that it will take time and asked the Council to volunteer their time to serve on this committee. He stated that he would like to have two members of Council and staff and requested that the Council be updated on the status of recommended changes.

Mayor Bringle stated that he would like to serve on the committee.

Mr. Seaford volunteered to serve on this committee.

Mayor Bringle stated that he and Mr. Seaford will serve on the committee to review policy with staff.

II) Public Services

Mr. Withers stated that he would still like to see a committee established to discuss a Public Service merger and Utility merger.

Mayor Bringle stated that he made a mistake to remove item III) Utility Merger and asked to revisit this item for next months meeting. He stated that at this time he does not wish to for a committee for Public Services and is what he meant to remove from the agenda.

Mayor Bringle stated that the Altec Project is going as planned.

Mr. Pless provided a brief review to the Council for the sidewalk project. He stated that all side walk is due to be completed and/or corrected as soon as possible. He stated that they are 60% complete with the job with a completion date of October 4th, 2010.

Mayor Bringle asked that Mr. Pless keep the Council updated.

Mayor Bringle recognized Doug Smith and Brandy Cook for their attendance. He stated that they are both running for elected positions.

Mr. Upright asked for updates on the Code Enforcement issues that are outstanding.

Mr. Pless stated that the property at the corner of Shue Road is up for sale. He reviewed a few others and stated that Mr. Cline will be at the next meeting to review the current and outstanding issues.

Mrs. Eller invited the Council to attend a Park Dedication in memory of Mr. Don Webb on October 5th, 5:45pm at Village Grove Park in the mill village.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Upright made a motion to go into Closed Session for personnel matters - Town Manager evaluations. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Withers made a motion to excuse Mr. Linn. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Upright made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There was no action taken.

ADJOURN

Mr. Seaford made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller, Town Clerk

Donald E. Bringle, Mayor